

REMARKS

Claims 1-12, 14, 15, 17-21 are present in this application. Claims 13 and 16 have been canceled. Claims 1, 15, 18, and 19 are independent claims.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 19-21 are allowed, and that claims 13 and 16 contain allowable subject matter. By the above claim amendments, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate subject matter of allowable claim 13, claims 15 and 18 have been amended to incorporate subject matter of allowable claim 16.

§102(e) Rejection – Futato

Claims 1-10, 12, 14, 15, 17, and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,813,040 (Futato). Claim 11 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Futato in view of U.S. Patent 6,169,746 (Ueda).

As noted above, independent claims 1, 15, and 18 have been amended to incorporate allowable subject matter of claims 13 and 16, respectively. Thus, Applicants submit that the rejections no longer apply.

Based on the claims as amended, Applicants request that the rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that claims are allowable.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact **Robert Downs** Reg. No. 48,222 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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